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December 4th, 1959

COCOM Document No. 3712.NI 1/1

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

NEW ELECTRICAL AND POWER-GENERATING ITEM NO. 1

29th October, 24th and 30th November, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents Nos. 3700.5, 3712.00/1, New Item No. 1/W.P.1 and 2

1. The UNITED STATES Delegation proposed that a new item be added to List I reading as follows:

"Electron beam welders and specially designed components."

The Delegation submitted a memorandum dated the 23rd November containing a description of the equipment concerned.

2. Pending examination by Governments of this new memorandum, Delegations based their comments on instructions received previously.

3. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that the preliminary view of his authorities was that there might be a case for embargoing such equipment.

4. The GERMAN Delegate stated that the preliminary view of his authorities was unfavourable. Electron beam welders had first been developed from electron microscopes, and the next stage of development had led to the production of milling and drilling machines which, in Germany at any rate, were exclusively used for civilian purposes. He asked whether it was the intention of the United States Delegation to place an embargo on such machines.

5. The UNITED STATES Delegate replied that the intention was merely to embargo the welding equipment per se. He said that, according to information in his possession, electron beam welders in the Soviet Bloc were still in the experimental stage and were probably used only in research development programmes. The United States authorities believed that in this respect the Western countries were in advance of the Bloc, particularly as regards the stabilisation of the electron beam in large-scale operations with high-temperature reactive metals and the super-alloys, which the United States authorities believed to have primarily strategic applications. Owing to the fact that the equipment was usually built to special order, and was extremely expensive, the United States authorities did not believe that these welders could be placed in the category of general-purpose welding equipment which was suitable for most other techniques.

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6. The FRENCH Delegate shared the views expressed by his German colleague. Equipment of this nature produced in France was used in civilian industries. The Delegate undertook to transmit to his authorities the arguments adduced by the United States Delegate, but the French position was based on Western use of these welders; this made it difficult for the French Delegation at this stage to agree to an embargo. They would study the new United States memorandum and comment further during the second round of discussion; they hoped that in the meantime the United States Delegation would be able to submit a new proposal specifying size and power cut-offs.

CONCLUSION: The COMMITTEE noted that agreement had not been reached on the proposed new item, and agreed to resume its study during the second round.

FMW